

NOTES ON THE BIRDS FOUND AT LAKE JOHNSTON AND LAST
MOUNTAIN LAKE, SASKATCHEWAN, DURING
APRIL AND MAY, 1922

BY C. G. HARROLD

CYRIL GUY HARROLD (1895-1929) died in New York on February 4, 1929, on the eve of his departure for Madagascar as one of the ornithologists to the joint British, American, and Paris Museums' Expedition. (Obituary notices appeared in the *Auk*, Vol. XLVI, April, 1929, p. 285, and the *Canadian Field Naturalist*, Vol. XLIII, Sept., 1929, pp. 132-3).

Recently, through the courtesy of Mr. A. P. Harrold of Tofield, Alta., certain field books and mss. have come into the writer's possession. Of these, the following notes were evidently prepared for publication in 1922 but withheld for some reason which we cannot now ascertain. The principal results of this collecting trip were communicated by C. G. Harrold to H. Hedley Mitchell and incorporated by him in the "Catalogue of the Birds of Saskatchewan" (*Can. Field Nat.*, Vol. XXXVIII, Spec. No., No. 6, pp. 101-119, May, 1924).

In preparing the notes for publication at this time, the new arrangement of the 1931 A. O. U. Check-List has been followed. Where any doubt remained as to subspecies, identification has been left open.

Most of the species mentioned are represented by specimens collected, but in editing the notes it was thought advisable to delete the Greater Snow Goose (*Chen hyperborea atlantica*) which Harrold included on the basis of a sight record on May 5 at Lake Johnston.

The work of correcting the names to accord with the new check-list, arrangement, and typing the manuscript, was all done by Mr. R. D. Harris of Winnipeg, whose help is gratefully acknowledged.—B. W. CARTWRIGHT, *Winnipeg, Man.*

Lake Johnston is situated about thirty miles south of Moose Jaw in a rolling, prairie country, practically treeless and dotted everywhere with sloughs of varying size. On the east side of the lake, about ten miles northwest of Expanse, the high ground comes right up to the lakeshore, forming a cliff about a mile in length and having a mean height of about 120 feet. This cliff is quite precipitous at some points, at others it slopes gently down to the shore. Although the surrounding country is open prairie, a large portion of the face of this cliff is thickly covered with shrubs of many kinds, including chokecherry, pincherry, saskatoon, gooseberry, etc., also willows and small poplars. These afford excellent cover for small birds such as nuthatches, warblers, vireos, and sparrows of various kinds. To either side of this ridge, the shore consists of swampy meadows and small mud bars, where many geese, ducks, and waders may be found during their respective migration seasons. The lake, which is over fifty miles in circumference, is very shallow, being less than six feet deep a mile and half from shore. This makes an excellent feeding ground for the swans, which gather here in numbers on their way north in the spring. Pelicans and cormorants were also common, nesting in colonies on an island which lies about five miles from the east shore of the lake.

The first half of May was very cold, with sleet and snow at intervals. The wind was north for the greater part of the first ten days, consequently holding back some of the small migrants.

HORNED GREBE. *Colymbus auritus*. First seen May 18. Several seen since that date but this species does not appear to be as common in southern Saskatchewan as it is farther east. (Lake Johnston).

WESTERN GREBE. *Aechmophorus occidentalis*. First seen May 14. Quite plentiful from this date till May 29, preferring the large lake to the smaller sloughs. (Lake Johnston).

WHITE PELICAN. *Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*. First seen May 4. Plentiful at Lake Johnston during May.

DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT. *Phalacrocorax auritus auritus*. First seen May 10. Only a few individuals seen after this date.

GREAT BLUE HERON. *Ardea herodias herodias*. First seen May 4. Common from May 9 till end of month.

AMERICAN BITTERN. *Botaurus lentiginosus*. The only specimens seen were two individuals on May 14.

WHISTLING SWAN. *Cygnus columbianus*. First seen May 1. Very plentiful from 1st to 8th. Last seen May 13.

CANADA GOOSE. *Branta canadensis canadensis*. First seen May 1. Common till May 8. Several pairs remained to nest along east shore of lake.

HUTCHINS'S GOOSE. *Branta canadensis hutchinsi*. None seen at Lake Johnston. Party of eleven seen on Last Mountain Lake on April 28.

WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE. *Anser albifrons albifrons*. Only one seen at Lake Johnston on May 4. Flock of five seen flying north along west shore of Last Mountain Lake on April 26.

LESSER SNOW GOOSE. *Chen hyperborea hyperborea*. First seen May 1. Abundant till May 12, migrating in flocks containing from ten to fifty birds. (Lake Johnston).

COMMON MALLARD. *Anas platyrhynchos platyrhynchos*. First seen May 1. Plentiful on migration on Lake Johnston and nesting around sloughs in this district.

GADWALL. *Chaulelasmus streperus*. First seen on May 6. Very common during May both on the open lake and also in the sloughs. No nests were found, although I feel certain this species nests in the locality.

BALDPATE. *Mareca americana*. First seen May 3. Abundant for two weeks after this date; usually seen in pairs.

AMERICAN PINTAIL. *Dafila acuta tzitzihua*. First seen May 1. Common on migration till May 9, also summer resident, several nests being found.

GREEN-WINGED TEAL. *Nettion carolinense*. First seen May 3. Common but not so plentiful as the Bluewing. Quite numerous between May 9 and 20.

BLUE-WINGED TEAL. *Querquedula discors*. First seen May 3. Very common till end of May.

SHOVELLER. *Spatula clypeata*. First seen May 1. Numerous till about May 15. One nest was found containing seven eggs on May 18.

REDHEAD. *Nyroca americana*. First seen May 8. Not nearly so common as the Canvas-back. Only a few flocks seen during the rest of the month.

CANVAS-BACK. *Nyroca valisineria*. First seen May 1. A very common migrant at Lake Johnston during May. Also apparently nesting, although I did not actually find the nest.

LESSER SCAUP DUCK. *Nyroca affinis*. First seen May 1. Not very plentiful at this point, only odd flocks being seen at intervals after this date.

AMERICAN GOLDEN-EYE. *Glaucionetta clangula americana*. First seen May 5. Only about half a dozen individuals noted during my stay at Lake Johnston. One male picked up unable to fly although apparently uninjured.

BUFFLE-HEAD. *Charitonetta albeola*. First seen May 19. Several pairs seen on sloughs toward the end of the month.

WHITE-WINGED SCOTER. *Melanitta deglandi*. First seen May 19. A common migrant usually seen in small parties some distance from shore.

RUDDY DUCK. *Erismatura jamaicensis rubida*. First seen May 23. On this date a flock of about fifteen were seen on Lake Johnston but no more seen afterwards.

AMERICAN MERGANSER. *Mergus merganser americanus*. April 26, Last Mountain Lake. First seen at Lake Johnston on May 7. Fairly common for two weeks after this date; seen in pairs or small parties.

SHARP-SHINNED HAWK. *Accipiter velox velox*. First seen May 9. Migrants fairly numerous till May 18, generally being seen hunting for small birds along the lakeshore.

WESTERN RED-TAILED HAWK. *Buteo borealis calurus*. First seen May 7. Not very common but individuals seen every day during remainder of May. One nest found in poplar six feet from ground containing one egg on May 14.

SWAINSON'S HAWK. *Buteo swainsoni*. Only one specimen seen on May 24.

AMERICAN ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK. *Buteo lagopus s.-johannis*. First seen May 22. Four more seen between this date and end of month.

FERRUGINOUS ROUGH-LEG. *Buteo regalis*. One seen on May 20.

NORTHERN BALD EAGLE. *Haliaeetus leucocephalus alascanus*. One immature specimen found at foot of telephone pole, evidently shot, on May 15.

MARSH HAWK. *Circus hudsonius*. First seen May 2. Common summer resident. One nest found, containing three eggs, on May 18.

OSPREY. *Pandion haliaetus carolinensis*. First seen May 2. Also seen on May 9 and 13—probably the same bird.

PRAIRIE FALCON. *Falco mexicanus*. First seen May 18. Several seen during the following week.

DUCK HAWK. *Falco peregrinus anatum*. First seen May 2. Several pairs seen along the shore during May. The stomach of a specimen obtained contained two Northern Phalaropes.

PIGEON HAWK. *Falco columbarius*. One seen on May 14 was the only one identified.

EASTERN SPARROW HAWK. *Falco sparverius sparverius*. First seen May 8. About a dozen individuals seen during the month of May. One pair nested at "The Cutbanks."

GREATER PRAIRIE CHICKEN. *Tympanuchus cupido americanus*. Two seen in a party of sharp-tails were the only ones identified, although several more were heard.

PRAIRIE SHARP-TAILED GROUSE. *Pedioecetes phasianellus campestris*. Fairly common in the district chiefly near the lake. Still in flocks till end of May.

SANDHILL CRANE. *Grus canadensis tabida*. Party of nine on May 10 were the only ones seen.

SORA. *Porzana carolina*. One specimen seen on May 15.

AMERICAN COOT. *Fulica americana americana*. First seen May 9. Only a few individuals seen during the remainder of the month.

PIPING PLOVER. *Charadrius melodus*. Party of three seen on May 7 were only specimens seen at Lake Johnston.

SEMPALMATED PLOVER. *Charadrius semipalmatus*. First seen May 15. A party of four seen on this date were only ones noted.

KILLDEER. *Oxyechus vociferus vociferus*. First seen May 1. The main migration had passed, and those seen after this date evidently intended staying to nest.

AMERICAN GOLDEN PLOVER. *Pluvialis dominica dominica*. First seen May 11. After this only three flocks were seen, the last being on May 16. Very few showed full spring plumage.

BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER. *Squatarola squatarola*. First seen May 11, when a flock composed partly of Golden and partly of black-bellies was seen. Only a few individuals seen after this date, last one being on May 17.

WILSON'S SNIBE. *Capella delicata*. First seen May 6. Not very plentiful, only a few specimens being seen between this date and May 20.

LONG-BILLED CURLEW. *Numenius americanus americanus*. One specimen seen on May 9 was only example noted. This was with a party of Marbled Godwits.

UPLAND PLOVER. *Bartramia longicauda*. First seen May 8.

SPOTTED SANDPIPER. *Actitis macularia*. First seen May 10. Odd pairs seen almost every day till end of month.

SOLITARY SANDPIPER. *Tringa solitaria*. First seen May 7. Common from May 11 to May 16 around small sloughs; none seen on the lakeshore.

WESTERN WILLET. *Catoptrophorus semipalmatus inornatus*. First seen May 3. Common during rest of month; usually seen in pairs and probably summer resident here.

LESSER YELLOWLEGS. *Totanus flavipes*. First seen May 8. A common but by no means abundant migrant till May 15.

PECTORAL SANDPIPER. *Pisobia melanotos*. First seen May 10. Common migrant till May 18, moving in small flocks.

BAIRD'S SANDPIPER. *Pisobia bairdi*. First seen May 2. Very common both around sloughs and on the lakeshore till May 14.

LEAST SANDPIPER. *Pisobia minutilla*. First seen May 2. Apparently not very numerous in this locality but several parties were noted between May 3 and 10.

DOWITCHER. *Limnodromus griseus*. First seen May 10. Migrated in parties, also in company with Pectoral Sandpipers. Last seen May 16.

STILT SANDPIPER. *Micropalama himantopus*. One male was seen on May 11 feeding in company with Baird's Sandpipers by a slough. My experience is that this species is usually to be found in company with Lesser Yellowlegs.

SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPER. *Ereunetes pusillus*. First seen May 4. An abundant migrant between May 4 and May 12, usually seen in company with Baird's or Least Sandpipers.

BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER. *Tryngites subruficollis*. Party of about fifteen seen on May 23 on ploughed land about one and a half miles from the lake. They rise from the ground almost with the speed of a Wilson's Snipe.

MARbled GODWIT. *Limosa fedoa*. First seen May 3. Common during the remainder of the month and no doubt nesting, as individuals were so tame you could approach within fifteen yards of them.

SANDERLING. *Crocethia alba*. One specimen seen on May 8 and three on May 9 were the only examples noted.

AVOCET. *Recurvirostra americana*. First seen May 15. Next specimen seen on May 23. From this date till end of month they were fairly common on the alkaline sloughs, showing a distinct preference for these ponds.

WILSON'S PHALAROPE. *Steganopus tricolor*. First seen May 13. This is apparently a summer resident in the district. Very few seen on migration; usually in pairs. One party of twelve birds were seen.

NORTHERN PHALAROPE. *Lobipes lobatus*. First seen May 17. For the ten days following this date they were very abundant. On May 20, I counted no fewer than sixty-one flocks passing south along the east shore of Lake Johnston in five minutes (7:10 A. M. to 7:15 A. M.). There were about thirty to fifty birds in a flock on the average.

CALIFORNIA GULL. *Larus californicus*. First seen May 1 and no doubt had arrived several days before this date. A very common gull along the shores of Lake Johnston. All specimens seen (with one exception) were in adult plumage.

RING-BILLED GULL. *Larus delawarensis*. First seen May 1. Plentiful for three weeks after this date. Practically all seen were in adult plumage.

FRANKLIN'S GULL. *Larus pipixcan*. First seen April 26 (Last Mountain Lake). Large migration along east shore of Lake Johnston every evening from May 10 to May 21 in parties of from five to twenty-five.

COMMON TERN. *Sterna hirundo hirundo*. First noted May 17. Common from this date till end of month.

BLACK TERN. *Chlidonias nigra surinamensis*. First seen May 21. Plentiful around sloughs till May 29.

WESTERN MOURNING DOVE. *Zenaidura macroura marginella*. First seen May 11. Not very plentiful. Odd birds seen almost every day till end of month.

SNOWY OWL. *Nyctea nyctea*. One seen on May 2 on the ice on Lake Johnston.

WESTERN BURROWING OWL. *Speotyto cunicularia hypugaea*. First seen May 17. Only one pair found nesting in deserted badger den. Nest contained ten eggs, also five field mice, two garter snakes, and one immature salamander. One of the mice was an albino, having pale pinkish colored feet.

LONG-EARED OWL. *Asio wilsonianus*. Several long-ears were seen on May 8 and the species was fairly common for several days; apparently following the small bird migration. Last seen May 16.

NIGHTHAWK. *Chordeiles minor*. One seen flying over at a great height on May 21.

NORTHERN FLICKER. *Colaptes auratus luteus*. Two seen on a telegraph pole on May 10 at Dunkirk.

EASTERN KINGBIRD. *Tyrannus tyrannus*. First seen May 11. Several pairs apparently staying to nest at "The Cutbanks" were the only ones seen.

SAY'S PHOEBE. *Sayornis saya saya*. First seen May 6. A common migrant till May 11. One cold stormy day they were seen taking insects off the weeds washed up along the shore in company with the Least Flycatchers. Last noticed May 17.

LEAST FLYCATCHER. *Empidonax minimus*. First seen May 10. Plentiful till May 14, that is, for only two or three days, although I saw odd ones till end of month.

PRAIRIE HORNED LARK. *Otocoris alpestris praticola*. First seen May 2. Not very numerous during the month as no doubt the main migration had passed long before I arrived. One nest found containing three eggs on May 4.

TREE SWALLOW. *Iridoprocne bicolor*. First seen May 21. Several seen during following ten days.

BANK SWALLOW. *Riparia riparia riparia*. First seen May 16. Very common over sloughs on the 19th. Summer resident.

BARN SWALLOW. *Hirundo erythrogaster*. One seen on May 27.

NORTHERN CLIFF SWALLOW. *Petrochelidon albifrons albifrons*. First seen May 19. Plentiful around sloughs for several days after this date.

PURPLE MARTIN. *Progne subis subis*. Several seen on May 22 flying over slough with Cliff Swallows.

AMERICAN MAGPIE. *Pica pica hudsonia*. One individual seen on May 1.

CROW. *Corvus brachyrhynchos* subsp. About half a dozen pairs nested in small trees along the shore.

LONG-TAILED CHICKADEE. *Penthestes atricapillus septentrionalis*. One pair seen on May 17.

RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH. *Sitta canadensis*. First seen May 5. Fairly common migrant till May 15. Found among willows on lake-shore.

WESTERN HOUSE WREN. *Troglodytes aedon parkmani*. First seen May 14. Only five or six individuals seen during remainder of month.

EASTERN WINTER WREN. *Nannus hiemalis hiemalis*. Two seen on May 12.

CATBIRD. *Dumetella carolinensis*. First seen May 18. Apparently a few pairs remain to nest in the thick bush along the shore.

BROWN THRASHER. *Toxostoma rufum*. First seen May 22. On May 24 one was seen about 500 yards from the nearest cover (except for a plough) on the open prairie. Several seen during last week in May in bushes along the shore.

EASTERN ROBIN. *Turdus migratorius migratorius*. A pair seen in a village about ten miles from Lake Johnston on May 9.

EASTERN HERMIT THRUSH. *Hylocichla guttata faxoni*. First seen May 11. Very common for several days, especially May 14. Last seen May 20.

OLIVE-BACKED THRUSH. *Hylocichla ustulata swainsoni*. First seen May 13. Fairly numerous till May 18. One seen on May 24.

WILLOW THRUSH. *Hylocichla fuscescens salicicola*. First seen May 21. Another heard singing on May 27. These were the only ones noted.

EASTERN BLUEBIRD. *Sialia sialis sialis*. A female seen on May 19 was only one noted.

MOUNTAIN BLUEBIRD. *Sialia currucoides*. Although I did not observe any personally, residents informed me that this species is quite common on migration in April.

EASTERN GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET. *Regulus satrapa satrapa*. A pair of this species was seen in the choke cherry bushes along the lakeshore on May 14.

AMERICAN PIPIT. *Anthus spinoletta rubescens*. Only one specimen was noted on May 4. Probably the northward migration had passed by this time.

SPRAGUE'S PIPIT. *Anthus spraguei*. First seen May 8. Very common till May 20. Apparently nests at this point. Each individual of this species migrates separately, flying about fifty yards from the ground and uttering a double note at intervals very similar to the alarm note of the Barn Swallow.

BOHEMIAN WAXWING. *Bombycilla garrula pallidiceps*. One seen during a sleet storm on May 2.

WHITE-RUMPED SHRIKE. *Lanius ludovicianus excubitorides*. One specimen seen on May 17.

RED-EYED VIREO. *Vireo olivaceus*. First seen May 17. Very numerous in bushes along the lakeshore till end of month.

EASTERN WARBLING VIREO. *Vireo gilvus gilvus*. First seen May 21. Several seen and heard after this date.

BLACK AND WHITE WARBLER. *Mniotilta varia*. First seen May 12. The only ones seen after this were two on May 14.

ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER. *Vermivora celata celata*. First seen May 6. Very plentiful on May 8 and 9. Last seen May 16.

EASTERN YELLOW WARBLER. *Dendroica aestiva aestiva*. First seen May 11. Abundant from this date till end of month.

MAGNOLIA WARBLER. *Dendroica magnolia*. One male seen on May 15 was the only one identified.

MYRTLE WARBLER. *Dendroica coronata*. One seen on May 6. Common from 8th to 10th. Last seen May 19.

BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER. *Dendroica fusca*. One male seen and heard singing on May 20.

BLACK-POLL WARBLER. *Dendroica striata*. First seen May 14. Very common till May 18. Last seen May 23.

WESTERN PALM WARBLER. *Dendroica palmarum palmarum*. One specimen seen on May 15.

WATER-THRUSH. *Seiurus noveboracensis* subsp. First seen May 11. A few odd ones noted during the next few days; last seen May 16.

MOURNING WARBLER. *Oporornis philadelphia*. One male seen on May 25 was the only specimen noted.

YELLOW-THROAT. *Geothlypis trichas occidentalis*. First seen May 14. Several seen during following week in scrub along lakeshore.

AMERICAN REDSTART. *Setophaga ruticilla*. First seen May 26. Two more seen on the 28th.

WESTERN MEADOWLARK. *Sturnella neglecta*. First seen May 1. Common summer resident.

YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD. *Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*. First seen May 7. Plentiful on migration for about a week. Apparently none stayed to nest at this point. Last seen May 19.

GIANT REDWING. *Agelaius phoeniceus arctolegus*. Common summer resident.

BALTIMORE ORIOLE. *Icterus galbula*. First seen May 21. Fairly numerous till end of month.

BREWER'S BLACKBIRD. *Euphagus cyanocephalus*. First seen May 2. Am uncertain as to the abundance of this blackbird on account of the difficulty of distinguishing it from the Rusty Blackbird in the field. Did not identify the rusty with certainty.

BRONZED GRACKLE. *Quiscalus quiscula aeneus*. Several pairs seen during the month.

NEVADA COWBIRD. *Molothrus ater artemisiae*. First seen May 9. Common from May 14 to 20 and a few seen every day till end of month.

ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK. *Hedymeles ludovicianus*. First seen May 12. Apparently a summer resident at this point.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN GROSBEAK. *Hedymeles melanocephalus papago*. A male was seen on May 15. Its song is loud, clear, and rather Robin-like in character, but unlike that of the latter bird it is repeated without variation, and at intervals of about thirty seconds.

REDPOLL. *Acanthis linaria* subsp. One flock flying high on May 3.

PALE GOLDFINCH. *Spinus tristis pallidus*. First seen May 23. Abundant after this date till I left.

ARCTIC TOWHEE. *Pipilo maculatus arcticus*. First seen May 8. Several noted during week following. Not common.

SAVANNAH SPARROW. *Passerculus sandwichensis* subsp.* First seen May 4. Abundant summer resident.

WESTERN GRASSHOPPER SPARROW. *Ammodramus savannarum bimaculatus*. One male seen on May 16, on the lakeshore.

BAIRD'S SPARROW. *Ammodramus bairdi*. First seen May 17. Common summer resident. A pair could be found at the edge of almost every slough.

WESTERN VESPER SPARROW. *Pooecetes gramineus confinis*. First seen May 7. Not very plentiful on migration, only a few individuals being seen about the middle of the month.

*Taverner (Proc. Biol. Soc. Wash., Vol. 45, 1932, pp. 201-206) has proposed the subspecific name *campestris* for this race.—B. W. C.

SLATE-COLORED JUNCO. *Junco hyemalis hyemalis*. Two seen on May 3.

TREE SPARROW. *Spizella arborea* subsp. A party of five seen on May 2.

EASTERN CHIPPING SPARROW. *Spizella passerina passerina*. First seen May 8. Abundant on May 14 and 15. Individuals seen till end of month.

CLAY-COLORED SPARROW. *Spizella pallida*. First seen May 8. Very abundant till May 17 on migration. Also common summer resident.

BREWER'S SPARROW. *Spizella breweri breweri*. One on May 16 was only specimen seen. Its song is a weak, disconnected series of notes, somewhat suggesting the song of the Long-billed Marsh Wren but not so loud.

HARRIS'S SPARROW. *Zonotrichia querula*. First seen May 7. Plentiful on migration till May 13. Last seen May 15.

WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW. *Zonotrichia leucophrys leucophrys*. First seen May 6. A large flight arrived on the 8th. Last seen May 11.

GAMBEL'S SPARROW. *Zonotrichia leucophrys gambeli*. First seen May 6. Common till May 10. Last seen May 12.

WHITE-THROATED SPARROW. *Zonotrichia albicollis*. First seen May 13. Very plentiful on May 15. One seen on May 20, but I doubt if this species nests here.

MCCOWN'S LONGSPUR. *Rhynchophanes mccowni*. First seen May 19. Fairly common from May 20 to 26. Found chiefly in stubble fields on high ridges. The male has a remarkable butterfly-like flight, which is used in conjunction with the song, which consists of only a few notes, one of them having a peculiar squeaky sound quite unlike that of any other bird in tune.

LAPLAND LONGSPUR. *Calcarius lapponicus*. May 1 (Lake Johnston). Last seen May 7. Huge flocks in flax fields near Liberty from April 26 to 30.

CHESTNUT-COLLARED LONGSPUR. *Calcarius ornatus*. First noted May 2. Very common summer resident, several nests being found.

EASTERN SNOW BUNTING. *Plectrophenax nivalis nivalis*. One seen on the shore on May 16 was still in winter plumage. It was very tame, allowing me to approach within twelve feet of it.

DEER LODGE,
WINNIPEG, MAN.